UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/1006
24 September 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(24 March 1999-23 September 1999)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report provides an account of developments and activities in respect of the mandate entrusted to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), in accordance with Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, 689 (1991) of 14 June 1991 and 806 (1993) of 5 February 1993. It covers the period from 24 March 1999 to 23 September 1999.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

2. The situation in the demilitarized zone remained generally calm throughout the period under review and UNIKOM carried out its normal operations without interruption. However, the flights of UNIKOM fixed-wing aircraft in Iraq, and helicopter flights on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone have remained suspended since last December when the Iraqi authorities informed UNIKOM that they could not guarantee the safety of flights in the area owing to the conflict with the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the "no-fly" zones. For security reasons, the deployment of military observers from the United States and the United Kingdom continues to be restricted to the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone and at UNIKOM headquarters in Umm Qasr.

3. The number of violations in the demilitarized zone decreased from 122 during the previous reporting period to 49, which consisted of 19 ground violations, 12 weapons violations, 3 maritime violations and 15 air violations. The air violations mostly involved aircraft flying too high to be identified. On two occasions, the violating aircraft were identified as F-15 and F-18, which are types commonly used by the coalition forces operating in the region.

4. The 19 ground violations included 10 cases of Iraqi police and civilian vehicles using the only hard-surface road along the border, which meanders in and out of Kuwaiti and Iraqi territory; 1 incident involving two Iraqi policemen

using a path near UNIKOM headquarters which passes through Kuwaiti territory; 5 cases of Iraqi men seeking asylum; 1 incident involving two United States army vehicles which entered the demilitarized zone inadvertently and left after being asked to do so by a UNIKOM patrol; and 1 incident involving two Kuwaiti policemen fishing on a pier located on Iraqi territory. On one occasion, a UNIKOM patrol observed evidence of a breach of the sand berm, including fresh footsteps from the Iraqi side, tyre marks and a rope used to scale the berm.

5. The 3 maritime violations involved small Iraqi fishing boats entering Kuwaiti territorial waters, while the 12 weapons violations included bursts of small arms fire heard from unidentified sources on 5 different occasions; 2 cases of Iraqi policemen carrying unauthorized assault rifles; 2 cases of Iraqi civilians carrying small arms; 1 incident in which a passenger from a civilian vehicle aimed a weapon at a UNIKOM patrol; and 1 case where UNIKOM observed a machine gun and two assault rifles in a vehicle occupied by Iraqi men.

6. Another weapons violation occurred on 16 September when UNIKOM, after receiving an inquiry from the press regarding the shooting of Kuwaiti policemen in the demilitarized zone, contacted the Kuwaiti Liaison Officer who confirmed that two Kuwaiti policemen had been shot near border pillar (BP) 73 on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone and had been evacuated by other Kuwaiti police to a hospital where they had died. On investigation, UNIKOM concluded that a shooting incident had occurred in the area reported by the Kuwaitis. However, it was not able to confirm the linkage between its findings and the alleged shooting of the police.

7. UNIKOM received two official complaints, one from the Kuwaiti side concerning a maritime violation and the other from Iraq concerning an air violation. Neither could be verified because of the time lag between the alleged incident and receipt of the complaint.

8. Twenty-one other incidents were recorded by UNIKOM, four of which were of a serious nature. These included the hijacking of a UNIKOM patrol by three armed Iraqis on 14 May 1999, resulting in the theft of a UNIKOM vehicle. This case is under investigation by the Iraqi authorities. One case involved an Iraqi male who scaled the perimeter fence at a UNIKOM patrol and observation base (POB): he was apprehended and handed over to the Iraqi authorities; another involved the discovery of a corpse on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone, which the Kuwaiti police agreed to receive and investigate. The remainder of the incidents involved stone-throwing at UNIKOM patrols by Iraqi children, the erection of obstacles on patrol roads by unknown persons on the Iraqi side, suspected mine injuries and the accidental shooting of one Kuwaiti policeman by another at a Kuwaiti police post.

9. One hundred and one ships docked at the port of Umm Qasr under the "oil-for-food" programme. Their cargo consisted mainly of wheat, rice, sugar, soya, ghee and spare parts.

10. The construction work on the Kuwaiti electric fence is now nearing completion and has reached the southern limit of the demilitarized zone. Oil drilling activity on the Kuwaiti side was interrupted at both the Al Ratqah oil field and in the vicinity of POB N-10. The activity restarted recently in a

significant way. On the Iraqi side, oil drilling activity has been variable, interrupted several times by a lack of spare parts. This situation still prevails today.

11. Preparations for the launching of UNIKOM's maritime monitoring operations in the Khawr' Abd Allah waterway are continuing. Construction work on the patrol and observation base and the pier on Warbah Island is now virtually complete, with only the installation of equipment and furniture remaining. There are still some outstanding tasks, including ensuring adequate protection of water and fuel lines from ground pressure, reinforcing the radar tower and working out arrangements for equipment maintenance, fuel supplies and other issues that need to be resolved before the maritime operations can be launched. UNIKOM has established the implementation team and is addressing all the outstanding issues while developing the organizational infrastructure.

12. UNIKOM provided security and logistic support to the humanitarian activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The representatives of ICRC from Kuwait and Iraq held a meeting at UNIKOM headquarters on 26 July 1999 to discuss technical matters.

13. UNIKOM continued to maintain close and regular liaison with the authorities of both Iraq and Kuwait at various levels, including visits by the Force Commander to Baghdad and Kuwait City, and through the UNIKOM liaison offices in the two capitals. Both the Kuwaiti and Iraqi Governments cooperated with the Mission in the conduct of its operations.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

14. As of September 1999, the overall strength of UNIKOM was 1,299, as follows:

(a) A total of 193 military observers, from Argentina (4), Austria (6), Bangladesh (5), Canada (5), China (11), Denmark (7), Fiji (5), Finland (6), France (11), Ghana (5), Greece (6), Hungary (5), India (6), Indonesia (4), Ireland (5), Italy (5), Kenya (4), Malaysia (5), Nigeria (5), Pakistan (7), Poland (5), Romania (5), Russian Federation (10), Senegal (5), Singapore (5), Sweden (5), Thailand (6), Turkey (6), United Kingdom (11), United States (11), Uruguay (5) and Venezuela (2);

(b) An infantry battalion of 767 from Bangladesh;

(c) An engineering unit of 50 from Argentina;

(d) A logistic unit of 34 from Argentina;

(e) A helicopter unit of 35 from Bangladesh;

(f) A medical unit of 14 from Germany;

(g) A total of 205 civilian staff, of whom 57 were recruited internationally.

Major General Esa Tarvainen (Finland) continued as Force Commander.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

15. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/229 of 8 June 1999, appropriated $53,991,024 gross for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, subject to review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Mission. Two thirds of the cost of the Mission, equivalent to $34.7 million, is to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait. Assessments on Member States have been made for the period ending 31 October 1999. The Government of Kuwait has paid its voluntary contributions in full through 30 June 1999 and an additional amount of $6.0 million has been paid through 31 October 1999.

16. As at 31 August 1999, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIKOM since the inception of the Mission through 31 October 1999 amounted to $15.0 million, representing some 6 per cent of the assessment for the Mission. The unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $1.9 billion.

V. OBSERVATIONS

17. During the period under review, the situation along the border remained generally quiet. UNIKOM was not significantly affected by the ongoing air operations by the United Kingdom and the United States in the southern "no-fly" zone in Iraq except for the continued restrictions of the helicopter flights to the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zones. UNIKOM continued to carry out its tasks, thereby contributing to the maintenance of calm and stability along the border. In this, it continued to receive the cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities. Consequently, I recommend that the Mission be maintained.

18. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major General Tarvainen and the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have discharged their responsibilities. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.

وزع بعثة الامم المتحدة للبر اقبة
في العراق و الكويت في أيلول/سبتمبر ١٩٩٩
伊科观察团1999年9月部署情况
UNIKOM DEPLOYMENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 1999
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA MONUIK EN SEPTEMBRE 1999
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ИКМООНН НА СЕНТЯБРЬ 1999
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNIKOM EN SEPTIEMBRE DE 1999
IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
Persian Gulf
Khawr Abd Allah
NORTHERN SECTOR
SOUTHERN SECTOR
HQ UNIKOM
GERMANY
BANGLADESH
ARGENTINA
LOG ARGENTINA
BANGLADESH
HQ NORTHERN
BANGLADESH
HQ SOUTHERN
BANGLADESH
N1
N2
N3
N4
N5
N6
N7
N8
N9
N10
S1
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S3
S4
S6
S7
S8
Umm Qasr
Safwan
Al Kuwait
Ad Dawhah
Hawalli
As Salimiyah
Az Zor
Al Jahra
Al Fintas
Al Fuhaihil
Al Ahmadi
Mina' al Ahmadi
Mina' 'Abd Allah
Al 'Abdaliyah
LOG Kheitan Base
LO Liaison Office Kuwait